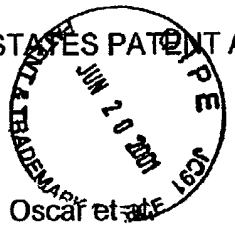
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicant(s)	:	Robert S. Oscar et al.	Attorney Docket No.: 746829-5
Serial No.	:	09/811,769	
Filed	:	March 20, 2001	
For	:	Pharmacy Benefits Management Method and Apparatus	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
Box: Non-Fee Amendment

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits please amend the applications as follows:

Please amend the claims as follows:

14. (Amended) A pharmacy benefits management server comprising

means for downloading information from a processor server having claim information relating to pharmacy benefits claims processed by a claims processing facility, said claim information including identification of drugs dispensed to patients;

means for downloading pharmacy benefits formularly information;

means for downloading pharmacy benefits plan structure information stored therein;

means for downloading price information relating to drugs in various classes stored therein; and

means for correlating the claim information with the benefits plan structure information, the price information, and the formularly information to identify expenses associated with selected drugs in accordance with the pharmacy benefits plan

structure information, alternative drugs in the same class as the selected drugs, and expenses associated with the alternative drugs.

27. (Amended) A pharmacy benefits management method comprising the steps of:

downloading claim information relating to pharmacy benefits claims processed by a claims processing facility, said claim information including identification of drugs dispensed to patients;

downloading pharmacy benefits formularly information;

downloading pharmacy benefits plan structure information;

downloading price information relating to drugs in various classes; and

correlating the claim information with the benefits plan structure information, the price information, and the formularly information to thereby identify drugs expenses associated with selected drugs in accordance with the pharmacy benefits plan structure information, alternative drugs in the same class as the selected drugs, and expenses associated with the alternative drugs.

Please add the following new claims:

40. A method of comparing alternative medication comprising the steps of;

storing pharmacy benefits formularly information;

storing pharmacy benefits plan structure information;

storing price information relating to drugs in various classes;

designating a particular class of drugs;

correlating the benefits plan structure information, the price information, and the formularly information; and

determining, based on said correlating step, drugs in the particular class and expenses associated with the drugs in the particular class.

41. The method as recited in claim 40, wherein the expenses in said determining step are out of pocket expense for a member of a benefits plan corresponding to the benefits plan structure information.

42. The method as recited in claim 40, wherein said designating step comprises determining a specific drug dispensed to a patient and designating a class for that specific drug.

43. The method as recited in claim 40 wherein the drugs in the particular class are therapeutic alternatives.

44. A method as recited in claim 40, wherein the benefits plan structure information and the formulary information relate to a multi-tier benefits plan.

45. A method as recited in claim 40, wherein the expenses include copayment information and total cost information.

46. A method of designing a pharmacy benefits plan comprising the steps of;

storing pharmacy benefits formularly information;

storing pharmacy benefits plan structure information;

storing price information relating to drugs in various classes;

designating at least one particular drug;

correlating the benefits plan structure information, the price information, and the formularly information to;

determining, based on said correlating step, expenses associated with the drugs in the particular class;

displaying the expenses determined in said correlating step;

changing at least one of the pharmacy benefits formulary information, the pharmacy benefits plan structure information and the particular drug designated in said designating step; and

repeating said determining and designating step after said changing step.

47. The method as recited in claim 47, wherein said designating step comprises designating a type of drug dispensed to patients in a pharmacy benefits plan and said changing step comprises changing the designated drug for at least some of the patients.

48. The method as recited in claim 47, wherein said benefits structure information and said formulary information relate to a multi-tier benefits plan and said changing step comprises changing at least one of copayment level information and coinsurance percentage information.